

NOTE

Thaumatelia Kirby: A Generic Synonym of *Brachymeria* Westwood
(Hymenoptera: Chalcididae)

Over 100 years ago, the genus *Thaumatelia* Kirby [type species, *Chalcis separata* Walker] was established (Kirby, 1883, J. Linn. Soc. Zool. 17: 53-78). Recently, the monotypic genus *Thaumateliana* Girault [type species *T. bicolor* Girault] was synonymized into *Thaumatelia*, *Thaumatelia separata* (Walker) was redescribed, and three new species of *Thaumatelia* were described (Narendran and Varghese, 1989, J. Ecobiol. 1: 43-50). Narendran and Varghese (1989) distinguished *Thaumatelia* from the genus *Brachymeria* Westwood (1829, in Stephens, Nomencl. Brit. Insects, p. 36) by its deeply excavated or cavity like depression of the mesopleuron, deeply excavated scrobe, strong scrobal margins, coarsely punctate thorax, and its long and pointed gaster. Presently, *Thaumatelia* contains five neotropical species.

For a forthcoming book on Nearctic genera of the family Chalcididae, I reviewed the genus *Thaumatelia*. Upon examining *Thaumatelia* types, I found that the characters used to distinguish *Thaumatelia* and *Brachymeria* intergrade into each other, and that they vary considerably among the five *Thaumatelia* species. The females of most *Thaumatelia* species have a long ovipositor, but this character is not constant or of generic merit.

The purposes of this note are to formalize a generic synonym prior to a regional, generic treatment, clarify type depositories and locality information, present unreported host data, and to correct generic nomenclature for forthcoming new species descriptions. Hence, *Thaumatelia* is designated a synonym of *Brachymeria*, and several taxonomic changes at the species level are proposed.

***Brachymeria bicolor* (Girault),
NEW COMBINATION**

Thaumatelia bicolor Girault (1912, Archiv. fur. Naturgeschichte 9: 160-162).

Thaumatelia bicolor (Girault), Narendran and Varghese (1989: 49-50).

Type information.—Holotype female, PARAGUAY, San Bernardino [not examined by author]. The type resides in the Zoologisches Museum at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, is very damaged, and is not available for loans (F. Koch, personal communication).

Additional specimens were identified by Narendran and Varghese (1989): one female and one male, BRAZIL, Mato Grosso, O. W. Richards, IX-X-1968; unreported host information: exit nest of *Brachygastra angusti* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) [examined by author]. The two specimens reside in the United States National Museum.

***Brachymeria grisselli*
(Narendran and Varghese),
NEW COMBINATION**

Thaumatelia grisselli Narendran and Varghese (1989: 45).

Type information.—Holotype female, VENEZUELA, Capacho, VIII-7-1970, A. Briceno, exit *Azochis gripulis* (Lepidoptera: Pyraustidae) [examined by author]. The type resides in the United States National Museum.

***Brachymeria kraussi*
(Narendran and Varghese),
NEW COMBINATION**

Thaumatelia kraussi Narendran and Varghese (1989: 45-46).

Type information.—Holotype female, MEXICO, Veracruz, 1959, N. L. Krauss [examined by author]. The type resides in the United States National Museum.

***Brachymeria separata* (Walker),
NEW COMBINATION**

Chalcis separata Walker (1862, Trans. Entomol. Soc. London 3(I): 345–397).

Thaumatelia separata (Walker), Kirby (1883: 60).

Type information.—Holotype female, BRAZIL, Ega [examined by author]. The type resides in the British Museum, Natural History. Two plesiotype females were designated by Narendran and Varghese (1989): BRAZIL, Franca, East of Sao Paulo, O. Dreher lg., 1902 [one specimen examined by author]. The two specimens reside in the United States National Museum.

***Brachymeria trinidadensis*
(Narendran and Varghese),
NEW COMBINATION**

Thaumatelia trinidadensis Narendran and Varghese (1989: 46–47).

Type information.—Holotype female, “Aug. Busck Collector” [examined by author]. Locality label missing; reported by Narendran and Varghese (1989) as “AR-GENTINA, Trinidad.” The type resides in the United States National Museum.

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